

Superior Court Warns of Jury Scam

The Superior Court, County of Kern, is warning residents of the County of Kern are being targeted by a scam in which a telephone caller represents themselves as a member of the Superior Court Jury Department. The scam attempts to persuade the victim to provide a fine payment for failing to report for Jury Duty.

The County of Kern, Superior Court Jury Department, is receiving complaints about the following telephone scam:

- Local residents are receiving calls from someone claiming to be from the Kern County Jury Department asking them to pay a fine because they missed jury duty. The caller is advising the public that there is a warrant out for their arrest for failing to appear for jury duty. They are warned they will be arrested on-site if they come to the Jury Office. The scammer directs the resident to go to CVS, Walgreens, or Wal-Mart and set up a pre-paid card and submit the payment to an account number or they ask for personal information--social security number and birthday--that would help the caller identify them as the juror.

What to do: The Court will not ask prospective jurors for their social security number or to pay a fine to another agency. Anyone receiving a call should not give the caller any of their personal information nor make any payments. If you are able to collect any information from the caller (phone number, name, location, and any other information to help identify the caller) please forward this information to the Bakersfield Police Department at (661) 327-7111 immediately.

“The Court would not ask for personal information over the phone,” said Terry McNally, Court Executive Officer and Jury Commissioner. “Nor would we require a payment for a fine without due process or ask that a fine be paid at any other agency but the court.”

Residents receiving calls of this nature should contact the Bakersfield Police Department at (661) 327-7111 or the Kern County Sheriff (661) 861-3110.